

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
STAFF STUDY**

**WASHINGTON TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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## **Purpose, Scope and Authority**

### **Purpose**

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (the Commission) administer the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP). WTAP is designed to help eligible low-income customers afford basic telephone service. WTAP is often combined with associated federal support programs (generally known as Lifeline and Link Up) offered by the Low Income Program of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The purpose of this report is to clarify the various programs and roles of the participating organizations that combine to help low-income customers acquire basic telephone service.

### **Scope**

This report describes the functions of the WTAP and USAC programs, and the roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in their administration.

### **Authority**

The Commission's authority to regulate telecommunications lies within RCW 80.36 and WAC 480-120. WTAP is regulated under RCW 80.36.410 through RCW 80.36.475, WAC 388-273-0010 through WAC 388-273-0035, and WAC 480-122-010 through WAC 480-122-080.

## **Introduction**

This report describes the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP). However, to explain clearly all of the benefits received by WTAP customers, it is also necessary to explain the Lifeline and Link Up programs offered by the federal Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Generally referred to only as WTAP in Washington State, the telephone service benefits received by WTAP customers are actually provided by WTAP and USAC's Lifeline and Link Up programs. WTAP and Lifeline/Link Up are administered separately but provide matching benefits. Local exchange companies coordinate these benefits with WTAP and USAC, and receive reimbursement separately for the services they provide to WTAP customers. For most WTAP customers, this means free basic installation, no deposit and a rate of \$4.00 per month (plus fees and taxes) for local phone service.

This report describes WTAP and the USAC programs, and summarizes how the benefits offered by the separate programs work together.

## **Washington Telephone Assistance Program**

WTAP assists low-income customers in obtaining basic local telephone service in Washington. Administered by DSHS and the Commission, WTAP provides reduced rates for monthly basic local telephone service and helps defray the cost of connection or installation fees for participants.

### **Background**

Finding that universal telephone service was an important policy goal of the state, the Washington Legislature established WTAP in 1987. Changes in the telecommunications industry raised concerns about the ability of low-income customers to continue to afford access to local telephone service, and the Legislature found it in the public interest to mitigate the effects of those changes on low-income customers. Initially scheduled to end in June 1993, WTAP has been reauthorized twice by the Legislature for additional five-year periods. It is up for its third reauthorization in the 2003 legislative session.

DSHS and the Commission jointly administer the program. DSHS provides overall program administration and WTAP fund management, and the Commission is responsible for rate setting.

### **Low Income Customer Benefits**

WTAP provides the following benefits to qualified participants:

- **Basic connection:** WTAP pays half of the service connection (installation) fee. Installation fees for Qwest, the largest local service provider in Washington, are \$31.00. WTAP pays \$15.50 toward installation for eligible Qwest customers.
- **Deposit requirements:** WTAP-eligible customers are not required to pay a deposit for local exchange service.
- **Monthly rate:** Participating WTAP customers pay the first \$4 (plus any applicable fees and taxes) of their monthly local phone service bill, regardless of the amount charged by the local exchange company.

### **Restrictions**

WTAP benefits can only be used for the first telephone line in a household. The billing name on the account must match the name of the person who qualifies for WTAP. The program only applies to residential, local telephone service. Special features can be purchased at full price. WTAP benefits do not cover charges for line extensions, toll charges and fees, optional extended area service, optional mileage, customer premises equipment, applicable taxes, or delinquent balances owed to the telephone company.

The deposit waiver and connection fee discount are available only once each year (July 1-June 30) for WTAP.

### **Eligibility**

WTAP is available to recipients of any one of the following DSHS assistance programs:

- ◇ Temporary assistance for needy families
- ◇ State family assistance
- ◇ General assistance (either GAU or GAX)
- ◇ Refugee assistance
- ◇ Food assistance
- ◇ State Supplemental Security Income
- ◇ Medicare Cost-Sharing Programs and the Family Planning Extension Program
- ◇ Community options program entry system
- ◇ Chore services
- ◇ Medicaid Personal Care

WTAP recipients must also:

- ◇ Be an adult, or, if under 18, be the payee and head of household;
- ◇ Apply for the program through the telephone company;
- ◇ Have local exchange services billed in their name; and,
- ◇ Subscribe to the lowest available flat rate service (usually single party service).

At the same time it approves public assistance benefits, DSHS sends eligible recipients a WTAP brochure and a personalized letter describing WTAP program benefits and how to enroll<sup>1</sup>.

### **Enrollment**

Eligible customers enroll in WTAP by contacting the local exchange company. DSHS provides a toll-free hotline through which telephone companies verify the eligibility of any WTAP applicant. Benefits for WTAP begin on the date of application to the local exchange company and are not retroactive. Once approved, benefits continue through the end of the program year (June 30). At the end of the program year, WTAP services are automatically continued for customers still participating in one or more qualifying DSHS assistance programs.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A

## **Funding**

WTAP is funded exclusively by a legislatively-mandated excise tax charged on all switched access lines in the state. Currently, the WTAP excise tax rate is \$0.13. The maximum allowed under the statute is \$0.14. The tax does not apply to wireless lines.

Local exchange companies collect the WTAP excise tax with local telephone billings, and submit the funds monthly to the DSHS Office of Financial Recovery. In its 2002 WTAP Report to the Legislature, DSHS reported that excise tax revenues totaled \$5.49 million for fiscal year 2002 and were collected by 57 telephone companies<sup>2</sup>.

## **Program Administration**

The Commission sets the excise tax amount and the maximum monthly rate paid by WTAP customers for phone service by order, as recommended by DSHS. The current excise tax amount was set by Commission order in 1992<sup>3</sup>. The current maximum monthly rate, or client threshold amount, was set by Commission order in 1999<sup>4</sup>. Although the Commission sets these rates, DSHS makes recommendations to the Commission for the rates and supports its recommendations with factual evidence of the fund balance and expected usage.

DSHS is responsible for administering the WTAP program, notifying potential participants of eligibility, and managing the WTAP funds.

Both DSHS and the Commission are responsible for promulgating rules that enable each agency to manage its responsibilities.

## **Telephone Company Participation**

By rule, every eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in Washington must offer WTAP rates and discounts. Every non-ETC local exchange company must offer WTAP rates when one hundred or more of its access lines are subscribed to for residential service. All telephone companies required by the Commission to participate in WTAP can seek reimbursement from DSHS for WTAP services, including wireless ETCs. For the purposes of this report, all eligible companies are referred to as local exchange companies.

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix B

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix C

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix D

## **Reimbursement to Telephone Companies**

Local exchange companies send an invoice to DSHS for costs associated with WTAP on a monthly basis for payments for three categories of service:

- ◇ **Reduction of the installation fee:** Local exchange companies are reimbursed 50% of the installation fee by WTAP.
- ◇ **Reimbursement for waiver of deposits:** If a WTAP customer is disconnected for non-payment of a bill and subsequently reconnected under WTAP, the company providing the waiver may recover the amount of the deposit on its monthly invoice to WTAP. The amount may not be more than two times the client threshold rate. If there is a significant administrative cost to providing a waiver of deposit for a WTAP customer, it also may be billed on the monthly invoice.
- ◇ **Monthly rate discount:** Regardless of the amount charged by the local exchange company, WTAP customers pay the first \$4 (plus any applicable taxes) of their monthly local phone service bill. WTAP subsidizes the remaining amount, less the USAC program benefit amount.

Companies bill USAC directly for matching support amounts.

Local exchange companies may also submit invoices for administrative costs attributed to the WTAP program. The reimbursable expenses are limited to:

- Program services provided after eligibility for WTAP is verified;
- Correct, verifiable billing items;
- Invoices submitted within ninety days following the month the expense occurred;
- Items charged in error that have been corrected within sixty days from the date DSHS returns the report of invoicing error to the local exchange company;
- Salaries and benefits for time required to implement and maintain WTAP, with the exception that time required for the correction of case number and client identification errors is not an allowable expense;
- Travel expenses for attending hearings, meetings, or training pertaining to WTAP;
- Expenses for supplies and materials for implementing and maintaining WTAP;
- Postage and handling for delivery of WTAP material;
- Administrative charge for change of service orders specified by tariffs; and,
- Documented indirect costs associated with implementing and maintaining WTAP.

Local exchange companies must maintain accounting records so that expenses associated with WTAP can be separately identified. By law, local exchange companies must also file tariffs with the Commission which waive deposits on local exchange service and establish a fifty percent discount on service connection fees for WTAP-eligible subscribers.

**Restoring Service Based on WTAP Eligibility**

Effective July 1, 2003, WAC 480-120-174 requires local exchange companies to restore service for any customer who has been disconnected for nonpayment, if the customer was not a WTAP participant at the time of disconnection but is eligible to participate in WTAP when requesting reconnection.

To have service restored, the customer must establish eligibility in WTAP, agree to continue participation in the program, agree to pay the past due amount for unpaid basic and ancillary services at 1.5 times the WTAP rate (currently \$6.00 per month), and agree to toll restriction, ancillary service restriction, or both, if requested by the local exchange company, until past due amounts are paid. The local exchange company may make separate payment arrangements for unpaid toll charges. If the customer fails to make a timely payment for basic service or for unpaid basic or ancillary service, the company may disconnect service.

**Reporting**

DSHS is required by statute to report to the Legislature each year on the status of WTAP. The report includes the number of participants, by qualifying social service programs, receiving benefits from WTAP and the type of benefits participants receive. The report also includes a description of the geographical distribution of participants, the program's annual revenue and expenditures, and any recommendations for legislative action. Excerpts from the 2002 Report to the Legislature are included as Appendix B (WTAP Fiscal Status by Program Year and WTAP Program Disbursements and Excise Tax Collections by Telephone Companies).

## **The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)**

### **USAC and the Universal Service Fund**

USAC is a private, not-for-profit corporation that administers the federal Universal Service Fund under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations. The Universal Service Fund compensates telecommunications companies that provide service to both low-income communities and areas where the cost of providing service is high.

The Universal Service Fund is made up of contributions from all telecommunications companies in the United States, including local and long distance companies, wireless and paging companies, and pay phone providers. The exact percentage that companies contribute is adjusted quarterly based on projected universal service demands.

### **Universal Service Charges**

Local exchange and long distance companies take varying approaches to recovering the costs of their contributions to the federal Universal Service Fund. Some companies do not specifically charge universal service charges to customers. Others add itemized charges, with labels like "universal service fee," to customers' bills. These charges and fees may appear as a percentage of the customer's bill, typically between 4 percent and 5 percent, or as a flat, monthly charge, typically less than \$1.00. Qwest charges Washington customers a "Federal Universal Service Fund" fee of \$0.51 per month.

### **The USAC Low Income Programs – Lifeline and Link Up**

USAC administers four programs: the High Cost Program, the Low Income Program, the Rural Health Care Program, and the Schools and Libraries Program. Each of these programs works to provide affordable access to telecommunications services for customers, rural health care facilities, schools and libraries.

The Low Income Program works with WTAP to assist eligible low-income customers in establishing and maintaining telephone service by discounting services provided by local telephone companies.

Two components of the Low-Income Program are:

- **Lifeline:** reimburses local exchange companies up to \$7.85 per month for discounting customers' monthly phone bills. Customers may also qualify for an additional \$3.50 per month in matching support. Lifeline provides \$9.50 in reimbursements in Washington.

- **Link Up:** reimburses local service providers up to 50 percent on installation fees (not to exceed \$30) for providing discounted connection charges to eligible low-income customers. Link Up support is available to customers with each line connection.

Local exchange companies bill USAC directly for these reimbursements. All carriers designated by the state commission as an ETC must offer Lifeline and Link Up to qualifying customers.

## **WTAP and USAC – The Combined Benefits**

WTAP and USAC (Lifeline and Link Up) offer matching benefits enabling eligible customers to establish and maintain telephone service through discounts on services from local exchange companies.

An example of how these benefits work follows:

### **Service Connection**

Connection (installation) fee (Qwest)=	\$31.00
WTAP - 50%=	-15.50
Link Up - 50%=	<u>-15.50</u>
Cost to WTAP customer=	\$ 0.00

### **Monthly Phone Service**

Basic monthly rate (Qwest) =	\$12.50
Federal access charge* =	<u>6.00</u>
Total =	\$18.50
Amount paid by WTAP customer =	- 4.00 (plus taxes)
Lifeline contribution =	<u>- 9.50</u>
Amount subsidized by WTAP=	\$ 5.00

\* = sometimes referred to as Subscriber Line Charge or SLC

## Appendix A

DO  
YOU  
NEED  
HELP  
WITH  
TELEPHONE  
COSTS?



## WASHINGTON TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### ENGLISH

#### Eligibility

If you are an adult receiving any of the following DSHS programs, you may be eligible for WTAP benefits:

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Refugee Assistance
- General Assistance (GA-U), (GA-X), (GA-S)
- Food Stamps
- Specific Medical Programs
- SSI/Medicaid
- DSHS Chore services/COPES

An adult payee of benefits only for a child is not eligible for WTAP.

#### Benefits

- 50% discount on telephone connection fee, once a year.
- Discount on your monthly local telephone service.
- Waiver of Local deposit.

WTAP is limited to the first telephone line in your home. WTAP does not apply to business phones. WTAP does not pay for telephone equipment, custom calling features or long distance service.

#### To Receive Telephone Assistance, Contact Your Local Telephone Company

The number of the residential service representative can be found in your local telephone book. Be prepared to give your DSHS Client ID number, social security number and birth date if requested.

The telephone billing account must be in the name of the person who is eligible for WTAP.

Benefits can begin only from the date you contact your telephone company.

#### For More Information

If you have any questions about WTAP, you may call the WTAP office at: 1-888-700-8880.

DSHS  
Washington Telephone Assistance Program  
PO Box 45413  
Olympia WA 98504-5413



02/11/2003

DATE

CLIENT ID NUMBER

#### WASHINGTON TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WTAP)

Dear Client:

Our records show that you may be eligible for the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP). The WTAP program provides:

- A discount on connection fees
- A waiver of deposit for local service
- A discount on local monthly service

**To add telephone assistance to existing service or to set up telephone service, just call your local telephone company.** You will need to give the telephone representative your DSHS Client ID number (listed above).

For more information, please see the enclosed WTAP brochure. If you have additional questions about the program, please call our toll-free number at 1-888-700-8880, or (360) 413-3189 in the Olympia area.

## Appendix B

<b>Washington Telephone Assistance Program</b> <b>Fiscal Summary</b> <b>July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2002</b>						
<b>WTAP FUND ACTIVITY</b>	<b>YEAR 11</b>	<b>YEAR 12</b>	<b>YEAR 13</b>	<b>YEAR 14</b>	<b>YEAR 15</b>	
	<b>FY 98</b>	<b>FY 99</b>	<b>FY 00</b>	<b>FY 01</b>	<b>FY 02</b>	
Forfeit of Deposit	\$ 18.50	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 736.00	
Connection Fee	\$ 387,192.18	\$ 284,812.13	\$ 266,647.40	\$ 277,335.22	\$ 352,638.84	
Change of Service	\$ 64.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Monthly Rate Discount	\$ 2,546,993.07	\$ 2,143,010.97	\$ 4,438,707.75	\$ 5,088,919.22	\$ 5,445,338.84	
Telephone Co. Admin. Costs	\$ 100,013.18	\$ 90,434.60	\$ 106,234.81	\$ 96,071.84	\$ 114,915.98	
Total Telephone Company Cost	\$ 3,034,280.93	\$ 2,518,257.76	\$ 4,811,709.96	\$ 5,462,342.28	\$ 5,913,629.66	
DSHS Administrative Costs	\$ 459,239.27	\$ 449,501.05	\$ 470,623.00	\$ 489,210.16	\$ 506,445.87	
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,493,520.20</b>	<b>\$ 2,967,758.81</b>	<b>\$ 5,282,332.96</b>	<b>\$ 5,951,552.44</b>	<b>\$ 6,420,075.53</b>	
<b>Excise Tax Received</b>	<b>\$ 5,384,420.67</b>	<b>\$ 5,483,963.35</b>	<b>\$ 5,777,978.64</b>	<b>\$ 5,762,305.76</b>	<b>\$ 5,493,316.62</b>	
Increase/(Decrease) Fund Balance	\$ 1,890,900.47	\$ 2,516,204.54	\$ 495,645.68	\$ (189,246.68)	\$ (926,758.91)	

**Source:**

*Washington Telephone Assistance Program*  
 Report to the Legislature - DSHS  
 December 2002

**Washington Telephone Assistance Program**  
**Revenue and Disbursements by Company**  
**SFY02 for the period ending September 2002**

Vendor	Acct #	Forfeit Deposit	Connect Discount	Change of Service	Monthly Discounts	Admin. Cost	Total SFY02	Excise Tax Received
Advance Telcom Group, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,455.00
Affinity Network, Inc. - Revenue only	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 274.30
Allegiance Telecom of Washington, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,065.48
Asotin Telephone Company	<i>00100</i>	\$ -	\$ 186.00	\$ -	\$ 4,909.60	\$ 469.56	\$ 5,565.16	\$ 2,132.63
ATT Communications of Pacific NW	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,585.09
ATT Broadband Phone of Washington, LLC	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,111.00
Avista Communications, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,370.51
Comm South Companies, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 298.00
Computer 5 Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,798.86
Cowiche (Century Tel)	<i>00300</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,695.62
Electric Lightwave, Inc.	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,726.28

Vendor	Acct #	Forfeit Deposit	Connect Discount	Change of Service	Monthly Discounts	Admin. Cost	Total SFY02	Excise Tax Received
Ellensburg Telephone Company	00400	\$ -	\$ 3,115.00	\$ -	\$ 7,765.06	\$ 3,953.71	\$ 14,833.77	\$ 41,620.77
Ernest Communication, Inc	Revenue only	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,007.81
Fairpoint Communication	Revenue only	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,849.00
Focal Communication	Revenue only	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,636.67
Hat Island	00600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160.81
HighSpeed Communication of WA, LLC	Revenue only	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 313.17
Hood Canal Telephone Company, Inc	00700	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 1,180.19	\$ 447.24	\$ 1,647.43	\$ 1,759.88
Inland Telephone Company	00800	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ 4,137.92	\$ -	\$ 4,262.92	\$ 3,913.57
Integra Telecom, Inc	Revenue only	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,291.00
Qualm Telephone Company	01000	\$ -	\$ 36.00	\$ -	\$ 2,546.50	\$ 744.00	\$ 3,326.50	\$ 4,591.32
Lewis River (TDS Telecom)	01100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,985.00	\$ -	\$ 18,985.00	\$ 9,137.35
Local Access Communications	Revenue only	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12.61
Mashed Telecom, Inc.	01200	\$ -	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 5,784.28	\$ 697.50	\$ 6,641.78	\$ 5,816.82
McDaniel Telephone Company	01300	\$ -	\$ 156.00	\$ -	\$ 12,609.94	\$ 104.00	\$ 12,869.94	\$ 6,470.93

Vendor	Acct #	Forfeit Deposit	Connect Discount	Change of Service	Monthly Discounts	Admin. Cost	Total SFY02	Excise Tax Received
MCI - Metro Access Transmission Seer Corp	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,232.60
M & L Enterprises (Skyline Telephone Co)	<i>02900</i>	\$ -	\$ 735.00	\$ -	\$ 1,192.56	\$ -	\$ 1,927.56	\$ 146.38
New Access Communications	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,419.00
NOS Communications, Inc. - Revenue only	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 986.18
Pacific Telephone, Inc. (Century)	<i>01400</i>	\$ -	\$ 21,136.51	\$ -	\$ 400,961.90	\$ -	\$ 422,098.41	\$ 266,889.90
Penned Oriel Telephone Company	<i>02800</i>	\$ -	\$ 647.00	\$ -	\$ 8,475.00	\$ 357.00	\$ 9,479.00	\$ 3,678.61
Pioneer Telephone Company	<i>01500</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107.60	\$ 107.60	\$ 1,126.86
Preferred Carrier Services	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86.87
Qwest Communications	<i>02400</i>	\$ -	\$ 170,174.50	\$ -	\$ 3,800,399.94	\$ 94,572.21	\$ 4,065,146.65	\$ 3,352,730.00
Rainier Cable	<i>02700</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 1,302.40
SBC Telecom, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,700.19
Shared Communications, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,892.00
Sprint Northwest/United	<i>02000</i>	\$ -	\$ 3,212.50	\$ -	\$ 103,172.99	\$ 4,422.80	\$ 110,808.29	\$ 102,521.77
St. John Telephone Company	<i>01600</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 242.50	\$ 120.00	\$ 362.50	\$ 988.21
Technologies Management, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 646.10

Vendor	Acct #	Forfeit Deposit	Connect Discount	Change of Service	Monthly Discounts	Admin. Cost	Total SFY02	Excise Tax Received
Telephone Communication Group	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,748.75
Telephone Communication Group, Oregon	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 535.00
Telephone Restoration Network, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95.68
Telnet	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 564.00
Tel West Communication, LLC	<i>03000</i>	\$ -	\$ 1,950.00	\$ -	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 2,887.50	\$ 18,437.50	\$ -
Tendon	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ 132.50	\$ -	\$ 3,757.50	\$ 664.32	\$ 4,554.32	\$ 5,385.74
Time Warner Telecom of Washington, LLC	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,667.04
Toledo Telephone Company	<i>01900</i>	\$ -	\$ 212.50	\$ -	\$ 2,130.51	\$ 1,151.41	\$ 3,494.42	\$ 3,645.29
United Communications, Inc.	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.18
Universal Access, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11.70
Verizon Contel	<i>00200</i>	\$ -	\$ 22,516.83	\$ -	\$ 158,094.13	\$ 670.56	\$ 181,281.52	\$ 130,071.48
Verizon Northwest	<i>00500</i>	\$ -	\$126,544.00	\$ -	\$ 852,280.97	\$ 670.56	\$ 979,495.53	\$1,164,391.11
Wahkiakum West Telephone	<i>02100</i>	\$ -	\$ 72.00	\$ -	\$ 1,867.56	\$ 306.02	\$ 2,245.58	\$ 1,854.06
Whidbey Telephone Company	<i>02200</i>	\$ -	\$ 67.50	\$ -	\$ 1,197.20	\$ 67.50	\$ 1,332.20	\$ 22,616.19

Vendor	Acct #	Forfeit Deposit	Connect Discount	Change of Service	Monthly Discounts	Admin. Cost	Total SFY02	Excise Tax Received
Winstar Wireless, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,058.29
XO Washington, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,288.64
Ycom Telephone Company	<i>02300</i>	\$ 736.00	\$ 1,440.00	\$ -	\$ 40,017.59	\$ 2,202.49	\$ 44,396.08	\$ 20,084.92
Z-Tel Communications, Inc	<i>Revenue only</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,833.00
Total >							*	
		<b>\$736.00</b>	<b>\$352,638.84</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,445,338.84</b>	<b>\$114,915.98</b>	<b>\$5,913,629.66</b>	<b>\$5,493,316.62</b>

*\* June FRS report includes a credit of \$1,698.18 for a warrant cancellation/phone company unknown (JV0002753). The credit is not included in the WTAP SFY02 Telephone Company reports.*

**Source:**

*Washington Telephone Assistance Program*  
Report to the Legislature - DSHS  
December 2002

## Appendix C

### BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Amending	)	DOCKET NO. UT-920696
WAC 480-122-060 Relating	)	
to the Washington Telephone	)	GENERAL ORDER NO. R-377
Assistance Program	)	
	)	ORDER AMENDING AND ADOPTING
	)	RULE PERMANENTLY
	)	
.....	)	

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission takes this action under Notice No. WSR 92-16-099, filed with the Code Reviser on August 5, 1992. The Commission brings this proceeding pursuant to RCW 80.01.040.

This proceeding complies with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 42.30 RCW), the Administrative Procedure Act (chapter 34.05 RCW), the State Register Act (chapter 34.08 RCW), the State Environmental Policy Act of 1971 (chapter 43.21C RCW), and the Regulatory Fairness Act (chapter 19.85 RCW).

The Commission scheduled this matter for oral comment and adoption under Notice WSR 92-16-099, for 9:00 a.m., Wednesday September 16, 1992, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. The Notice provided interested persons the opportunity to submit written comments to the Commission until September 9, 1992.

No written comments were filed; US WEST filed a letter by C. J. Iblings stating that it had no comments on the proposed change.

The Commission, pursuant to the Notice, considered the rule change proposal for adoption at its regularly scheduled open public meeting on September 16, 1992, before Chairman Sharon L. Nelson, Commissioner Richard D. Casad and Commissioner A. J. Pardini. No oral comments were received at the meeting.

Oral comments were received at an open public meeting on July 31, 1992, when Commission Staff recommended that the Commission issue the notice of proposed rulemaking. The comments, by Kay Hanvey and Al Seymour, Department of Social and Health Services; Hal Lincoln, GTE; Mike Moran, US West; and Commission Staff, were favorable to the proposal.

The Commission adopted the proposal as **noticed**.

The rule change affects no economic values.

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

SEP 28 1992

In reviewing the entire record, the Commission determines that WAC 480-122-060 should be amended to read as set forth in Appendix A, attached to this order and included in it by this reference.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS That WAC 480-122-060 is amended to read as set forth in Appendix A, as a rule of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, to take effect pursuant to RCW 34.05.080(2).

THE COMMISSION FURTHER ORDERS That this order and the attached rule, after being recorded in the order register of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, shall be forwarded to the Code Reviser for filing pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW and chapter 1-21 WAC.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 1992.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



SHARON L. NELSON, Chairman



RICHARD D. CASAD, Commissioner



A. J. PARDINI, Commissioner

A P P E N D I X   A

**AMENDATORY SECTION** (Amending Order R-328, Docket No. UT-900462, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90)

WAC 480-122-060 Telephone assistance excise tax. Beginning ((July)) November 1, ((1990)) 1992, local exchange companies shall collect a telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines of ((five)) thirteen cents per month(~~(, in lieu of previously tariffed lifeline surcharge)~~). Each party line subscriber shall be assessed the telephone assistance excise tax in full. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as the "Washington telephone assistance program." Money collected from the telephone assistance excise tax shall be transferred to a telephone assistance fund ~~((to be))~~ administered by the department.

## Appendix D

### BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Approving	)	DOCKET UT-990429
The Department of Health Services	)	
Washington Telephone Assistance Program	)	ORDER DETERMINING
Threshold Rate	)	THRESHOLD RATE
.....)		

The Federal Communications Commission Order 97-157, issued May 8, 1997, revised Lifeline program funding available to all states. Lifeline customers in Washington state are supported through a program administered by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP). The FCC Order adopted the Joint Board's recommendation regarding federal Lifeline support amounts.

On March 15, 1999, the Commission received notification by DSHS of the agency intention to receive maximum federal funding for the WTAP program and address an existing program fund surplus. DSHS requested a program reduction in the WTAP client threshold rate. The reduction by \$3.50 will allow receipt of federal matching funds to bring the federal support for WTAP to \$7.00 per client, the maximum available. The DSHS WTAP client threshold rate amount will be reduced to \$4.00 per month per client to address the federal program fund availability, reduce a WTAP budget surplus and directly provide more generous program benefits to clients. DSHS program implementation will become effective July 1, 1999.

#### ORDER

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED That the Department of Social and Health Services Washington Telephone Assistance Program shall implement the FCC Order 97-157, reducing the program rate to receive federal support monies, reduce the Washington Telephone Assistance Program fund surplus and provide additional program benefits to clients. The threshold rate will be revised to \$4.00 per month per client with implementation July 1, 1999 for clients eligible under RCW 80.36.450 and RCW 80.36.470.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this                      day of April, 1999.

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Secretary

## Appendix E

### **RCW 80.36.410 Washington telephone assistance program -- Findings. (*Expires June 30, 2003.*)**

The legislature finds that universal telephone service is an important policy goal of the state. The legislature further finds that: (1) Recent changes in the telecommunications industry, such as federal access charges, raise concerns about the ability of low-income persons to continue to afford access to local exchange telephone service; and (2) many low-income persons making the transition to independence from receiving supportive services through community agencies do not qualify for economic assistance from the department. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest to take steps to mitigate the effects of these changes on low-income persons.

[2002 c 104 § 2; 1987 c 229 § 3.]

#### **NOTES:**

**Expiration date -- 2002 c 104 §§ 2 and 3:** "Sections 2 and 3 of this act expire June 30, 2003."  
[2002 c 104 § 4.]

**Expiration date -- 1987 c 229 §§ 3-10:** "RCW [80.36.410](#) through [80.36.470](#) shall expire June 30, 2003." [1998 c 159 § 1; 1993 c 249 § 3; 1990 c 170 § 8; 1987 c 229 § 12.]

### **RCW 80.36.420 Washington telephone assistance program -- Availability, components. (*Expires June 30, 2003.*)**

The Washington telephone assistance program shall be available to participants of department programs set forth in RCW [80.36.470](#). Assistance shall consist of the following components:

- (1) A discount on service connection fees of fifty percent or more as set forth in RCW [80.36.460](#).
- (2) A waiver of deposit requirements on local exchange service, as set forth in RCW [80.36.460](#).
- (3) A discounted flat rate service for local exchange service, which shall be subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) The commission shall establish a single telephone assistance rate for all local exchange companies operating in the state of Washington. The telephone assistance rate shall include any federal end user access charges and any other charges necessary to obtain local exchange service.
  - (b) The commission shall, in establishing the telephone assistance rate, consider all charges for local exchange service, including federal end user access charges, mileage charges, extended area service, and any other charges necessary to obtain local exchange service.
  - (c) The telephone assistance rate shall only be available to eligible customers subscribing to the lowest available local exchange flat rate service, where the lowest local exchange flat rate, including any federal end user access charges and any other charges necessary to obtain local exchange service, is greater than the telephone assistance rate. Low-income senior citizens sixty years of age and older and other low-income persons identified by the department as medically needy shall, where single-party service is available, be provided with single-party service as the lowest available local exchange flat rate service.

(d) The cost of providing the service shall be paid, to the maximum extent possible, by a waiver of all or part of the federal end user access charge and, to the extent necessary, from the telephone assistance fund created by RCW [80.36.430](#).

[1990 c 170 § 2; 1987 c 229 § 4.]

**NOTES:**

**Expiration date -- 1987 c 229 §§ 3-10:** See note following RCW [80.36.410](#).

**RCW 80.36.430 Washington telephone assistance program -- Excise tax. (*Expires June 30, 2003.*)**

The Washington telephone assistance program shall be funded by a telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines and by funds from any federal government or other programs for this purpose. Switched access lines are defined in RCW [82.14B.020](#). The telephone assistance excise tax shall be applied equally to all residential and business access lines not to exceed fourteen cents per month. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as the "Washington telephone assistance program." All money collected from the telephone assistance excise tax shall be transferred to a telephone assistance fund administered by the department. Local exchange companies shall bill the fund for their expenses incurred in offering the telephone assistance program, including administrative and program expenses. The department shall disburse the money to the local exchange companies. The department is exempted from having to conclude a contract with local exchange companies in order to effect this reimbursement. The department shall recover its administrative costs from the fund. The department may specify by rule the range and extent of administrative and program expenses that will be reimbursed to local exchange companies.

[1990 c 170 § 3; 1987 c 229 § 5.]

**NOTES:**

**Expiration date -- 1987 c 229 §§ 3-10:** See note following RCW [80.36.410](#).

**RCW 80.36.440 Washington telephone assistance program -- Rules. (*Expires June 30, 2003.*)**

The commission and the department may adopt any rules necessary to implement RCW [80.36.410](#) through [80.36.470](#).

[1990 c 170 § 4; 1987 c 229 § 6.]

**NOTES:**

**Expiration date -- 1987 c 229 §§ 3-10:** See note following RCW [80.36.410](#).

**RCW 80.36.450 Washington telephone assistance program -- Limitation. (*Expires June 30, 2003.*)**

The Washington telephone assistance program shall be limited to one residential access line per eligible household.

[1993 c 249 § 2; 1987 c 229 § 7.]

**NOTES:**

**Effective date -- 1993 c 249:** See note following RCW [80.36.005](#).

**Expiration date -- 1987 c 229 §§ 3-10:** See note following RCW [80.36.410](#).

**RCW 80.36.460 Washington telephone assistance program -- Deposit waivers, connection fee discounts. (Expires June 30, 2003.)**

Local exchange companies shall file tariffs with the commission which waive deposits on local exchange service for eligible subscribers and which establish a fifty percent discount on service connection fees for eligible subscribers. Part or all of the remaining fifty percent of service connection fees may be paid by funds from federal government or other programs for this purpose. The commission or other appropriate agency shall make timely application for any available federal funds. The remaining portion of the connection fee to be paid by the subscriber shall be expressly payable by installment fees spread over a period of months. A subscriber may, however, choose to pay the connection fee in a lump sum. Costs associated with the waiver and discount shall be accounted for separately and recovered from the telephone assistance fund. Eligible subscribers shall be allowed one waiver of a deposit and one discount on service connection fees per year.

[1990 c 170 § 5; 1987 c 229 § 8.]

**NOTES:**

**Expiration date -- 1987 c 229 §§ 3-10:** See note following RCW [80.36.410](#).

**RCW 80.36.470 Washington telephone assistance program -- Eligibility. (Expires June 30, 2003.)**

(1) Adult recipients of department-administered programs for the financially needy which provide continuing financial or medical assistance, food stamps, or supportive services to persons in their own homes are eligible for participation in the telephone assistance program. The department shall notify the participants of their eligibility.

(2) Participants in community service voice mail programs are eligible for participation in the telephone assistance program after completing use of community service voice mail services. Eligibility shall be for a period including the remainder of the current service year and the following service year. Community agencies shall notify the department of participants eligible under this subsection.

[2002 c 104 § 3; 1990 c 170 § 6; 1987 c 229 § 9.]

**NOTES:**

**Expiration date -- 2002 c 104 §§ 2 and 3:** See note following RCW [80.36.410](#).

**Expiration date -- 1987 c 229 §§ 3-10:** See note following RCW [80.36.410](#).

**RCW 80.36.475 Washington telephone assistance program -- Report to legislature.**

The department shall report to the energy and utilities committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December 1 of each year on the status of the Washington telephone assistance program. The report shall include the number of participants by qualifying social service programs receiving benefits from the telephone assistance program and the type of benefits participants receive. The report shall also include a description of the geographical distribution of participants, the program's annual revenue and expenditures, and any recommendations for legislative action.

[1990 c 170 § 7.]

**WAC 388-273-0010 Purpose of the Washington telephone assistance program.** The Washington telephone assistance program (WTAP) is designed to help low-income households afford access to local telephone service. For the purposes of this chapter, "**we**" and "**us**" mean the department of social and health services (DSHS). "**You**" means the person who is applying and eligible for WTAP.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [74.08.090](#), [80.36.440](#). 01-09-023, § 388-273-0010, filed 4/9/01, effective 6/1/01.]

**WAC 388-273-0020 Who may receive WTAP?**

(1) To receive WTAP benefits, you must:

(a) Be age eighteen or older or, if under eighteen, be the responsible head of household, and either;

(b) Be receiving one of the following programs from us:

- (i) Temporary assistance for needy families (TANF);
- (ii) State family assistance (SFA);
- (iii) General assistance;
- (iv) Refugee assistance;
- (v) Food assistance;
- (vi) State Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- (vii) Medical assistance, including Medicare cost sharing programs;
- (viii) Community options program entry system (COPES);
- (ix) Chore services; or

(c) Have completed using community service voice mail services, and been identified to the department as eligible for WTAP by the community agency that provided your community service voice mail program; and

(2) Apply to a local exchange company for WTAP and request the lowest available flat rate telephone service at the WTAP rate. In exchange areas where wireline service is not available without service extension, you may apply to a wireless carrier:

(a) "**Local exchange company**" means a telephone company that is required by the Washington utilities and transportation commission to offer WTAP benefits and offers local calling, i.e., calling without long distance charges.

(b) "**Flat rate service**" is telephone service with a single monthly payment that allows unlimited local calling for a specified length of time. The local exchange flat rate includes any federal end user access charges and other charges necessary to obtain the service; and

(3) You must have the local telephone service billed in your name.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [74.08.090](#), [80.36.440](#), 2002 c 104. 02-18-106, § 388-273-0020, filed 9/3/02, effective 10/4/02. Statutory Authority: RCW [74.08.090](#), [80.36.440](#). 01-09-023, § 388-273-0020, filed 4/9/01, effective 6/1/01.]

**WAC 388-273-0025 Benefits you receive as a WTAP participant.** (1) WTAP participants receive a:

(a) Discount on local telephone flat rate services, when the flat rate is more than the WTAP assistance rate;

(b) Waiver of deposit requirements on local telephone service; and  
(c) Fifty percent discount on service connection fees. Any connection fee discounts available from other programs are added to the WTAP discount, to pay part or all of the remaining fifty percent.

(2) WTAP benefits are limited to one residential line per household.

(3) The deposit waiver and the discount on connection fees are available once per service year. "**Service year**" means the period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the following calendar year.

(4) Your benefits begin the date you are approved for WTAP assistance and continue through the next June 30, except if you qualified for telephone assistance through using the community services voice mail programs, you will receive one additional service year of benefits.

(5) WTAP benefits do not include charges for line extension, optional extended area service, optional mileage, customer premises equipment, applicable taxes or delinquent balances owed to the telephone company.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [74.08.090](#), [80.36.440](#), 2002 c 104. 02-18-106, § 388-273-0025, filed 9/3/02, effective 10/4/02. Statutory Authority: RCW [74.08.090](#), [80.36.440](#). 01-09-023, § 388-273-0025, filed 4/9/01, effective 6/1/01.]

**WAC 388-273-0030 How you can apply for WTAP.** (1) You can apply for WTAP by contacting the local telephone company.

(2) The telephone company contacts us to verify that you are eligible for benefits under WAC [388-273-0020](#) before they add WTAP to your telephone account.

(3) You will know you are receiving WTAP benefits when you have a WTAP credit on your telephone bill.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [74.08.090](#), [80.36.440](#). 01-09-023, § 388-273-0030, filed 4/9/01, effective 6/1/01.]

**WAC 388-273-0035 What we reimburse the local telephone company.** (1) Within available funding limits, we reimburse local telephone companies for fully documented administrative and program expenses associated with WTAP. The reimbursable expenses are limited to:

- (a) Program services provided after eligibility for WTAP is verified;
- (b) Correct, verifiable billing items;
- (c) Invoices submitted within ninety days following the month the expense occurred;
- (d) Items charged in error that have been corrected within sixty days from the date we return the report of invoicing error to the local phone company;
- (e) Salaries and benefits for time required to implement and maintain WTAP, with the exception that time required for the correction of case number and client identification errors is not an allowable expense;
- (f) Travel expenses for attending hearings, meetings, or training pertaining to WTAP;
- (g) Expenses for supplies and materials for implementing and maintaining WTAP;
- (h) Postage and handling for delivery of WTAP material;

- (i) Administrative charge for change of service orders specified by tariffs; and
- (j) Documented indirect costs associated with implementing and maintaining WTAP.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [74.08.090](#), [80.36.440](#). 01-09-023, § 388-273-0035, filed 4/9/01, effective 6/1/01.]

## **WUTC WACs**

### **WAC 480-120-174 Restoring service based on Washington telephone assistance program (WTAP) or federal enhanced tribal lifeline program eligibility. *Effective July 1, 2003***

(1) Local exchange companies (LECs) must restore service for any customer who has had basic service discontinued for nonpayment under WAC 480-120-172 (Discontinuing service-- Company initiated) if the customer was not a participant in either Washington telephone assistance program (WTAP) or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program at the time service was discontinued and if the customer is eligible to participate in WTAP or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program at the time the restoration of service is requested. To have service restored under this section, a customer must establish eligibility for either WTAP or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program, agree to continuing participation in WTAP or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program, agree to pay unpaid basic service and ancillary service amounts due to the LEC at the monthly rate of no more than one and one-half times the telephone assistance rate required to be paid by WTAP participants as ordered by the commission under WAC 480-122-020, agree to toll restriction, or ancillary service restriction, or both, if the company requires it, until the unpaid amounts are paid. Companies must not charge for toll restriction when restoring service under this section.

(2) In the event a customer receiving service under this section fails to make a timely payment for either monthly basic service or for unpaid basic service or ancillary service, the company may discontinue service pursuant to WAC 480-120-172.

(3) Nothing in this rule precludes the company from entering into separate payment arrangements with any customer for unpaid toll charges.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-174, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

### **WAC 480-122-010 Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Local exchange company" means a telecommunications company providing local exchange telecommunications service.

(2) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(3) "Washington telephone assistance program" means the program of local exchange service discounts administered by the department.

(4) "Switched access line" means, for the purpose of applying the telephone assistance program excise tax, a communication facility extending from a serving central office to a customer's premises to provide access to and from the switched telecommunications network

for message toll service and local calling. When used with PBX or Centrex-CU a switched access line may also be referred to as a trunk.

(5) Radio communications service company has the meaning found in RCW 80.04.010, except that for the purposes of this section it includes only those companies providing two-way voice communication as a common carrier.

(6) "Eligible telecommunications carrier" (ETC) means a carrier designated as an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 02-03-017 (Docket No. UT-003074, General Order No. R-492), § 480-122-010, filed 1/4/02, effective 2/28/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-900462), § 480-122-010, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause No. U-87-1102-R), § 480-122-010, filed 10/1/87.]

**WAC 480-122-020 Washington telephone assistance program rate.** The commission shall set by order the telephone assistance rate to be paid by program participants for local service. Every eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) must offer the telephone assistance rates and discounts in accordance with RCW 80.36.410 through 80.36.475. Every non-ETC local exchange company must offer the telephone assistance rates and discounts in accordance with RCW 80.36.410 through 80.36.475 when one hundred or more of its access lines are subscribed to for residential service. Radio communications service companies that are not ETCs may offer the telephone assistance rates and discounts in accordance with RCW 80.36.410 through 80.36.475.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 02-03-017 (Docket No. UT-003074, General Order No. R-492), § 480-122-020, filed 1/4/02, effective 2/28/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 98-18-106 (Order R-449, Docket No. UT-971664), § 480-122-020, filed 9/2/98, effective 10/3/98; 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-900462), § 480-122-020, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause No. U-87-1102-R), § 480-122-020, filed 10/1/87.]

**WAC 480-122-050 Other charges.** No change of service charge shall be charged to an eligible subscriber for the establishment of service under the telephone assistance program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-900462), § 480-122-050, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause No. U-87-1102-R), § 480-122-050, filed 10/1/87.]

**WAC 480-122-060 Telephone assistance excise tax.** Wireline local exchange companies shall collect a telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines in an amount set by the commission by order at the request of the department. Each party line customer shall be assessed the telephone assistance excise tax in full. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as the "Washington telephone assistance program." Money collected from the telephone assistance excise tax shall be transferred to a telephone assistance fund administered by the department.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 02-03-017 (Docket No. UT-003074, General Order No. R-492), § 480-122-060, filed 1/4/02, effective 2/28/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-20-031 (Order R-377, Docket No. UT-920696), § 480-122-060, filed 9/28/92, effective 10/29/92; 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-900462), § 480-122-060, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 89-11-020 (Order R-300, Docket No. U-89-2754-R), § 480-122-060, filed 5/11/89; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause No. U-87-1102-R), § 480-122-060, filed 10/1/87.]

**WAC 480-122-080 Accounting.** Local exchange companies shall maintain their accounting records so that expenses associated with the telephone assistance program can be separately identified.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. 02-03-017 (Docket No. UT-003074, General Order No. R-492), § 480-122-080, filed 1/4/02, effective 2/28/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-900462), § 480-122-080, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause No. U-87-1102-R), § 480-122-080, filed 10/1/87.]